RCMP·GRC

Summer 2007

# Mountie Messenger

## THE YELLOWKNIFE DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER

*Making Yellowknife a great place to live!*

### Yellowknife Detachment welcomes new commander.

For just over two years the Yellowknife Detachment was under the direction of Inspector Roch Fortin. During his tenure there were many exciting new initiatives introduced aimed at reducing crime and improving police community relations. Inspector Fortin has moved on to new duties as the G Division - Area Commander South. Upon his departure, Staff Sergeant Mike Brandford stepped in to take over the reigns of the Yellowknife Detachment.

S/Sgt. Brandford brings renewed commitment to furthering the work started in the Yellowknife Detachment. "They (the initiatives) are working well, and I intend to see that they continue working well." S/Sgt. Brandford also hopes to address some of the public concerns about the downtown core. He has re-instated a downtown summer foot patrol program and hopes to see a reduction in incidences in this area.

S/Sgt. Brandfords' twenty-seven year career with the RCMP includes his being posted in Yellowknife for the past twenty years, in addition to four years spent at other northern postings. Over the years S/Sgt. Brandford has worked at every rank level at the Yellowknife Detachment, starting from Constable through Corporal, Ops NCO as a Sergeant, and now as a Staff Sergeant, Detachment Commander. Being a long-time Yellowknife resident as well as a police officer gives this new detachment commander a unique insight into the past, present and potential future trends that the Yellowknife Detachment has and may encounter. This perspective will assist S/Sgt. Brandford in continuing to apply policing resources in the most effective manner possible. Sgt. Brandford and his wife, Charlotte have raised four children in Yellowknife. He was kept busy by coaching hockey for several years, as well as serving on the minor hockey executive and refereeing soccer.

S/Sgt. Brandford remains committed to Yellowknife and hopes for a bright future for all community members.

### Success in the North on Crime Reduction

In an effort to reduce crime in the downtown core of Yellowknife, the Yellowknife Detachment, with supporting partners, launched a proactive initiative in November 2006, the "Crime Reduction Strategy". Based on models developed in the UK, New Zealand and British Columbia, the Crime Reduction (CR) Strategy provides the detachment the opportunity to work in partnership with criminal justice resources and private sector organizations to lower the crime rate.

Yellowknife Detachment's Joint Management Team (JMT) applied the base model of CR to the challenges faced by the detachment. They began with a basic question "Who, or what, are our biggest problems in day to day activities?" One group identified was the prolific and priority repeat offenders. These persons may have committed "nuisance" offences that did not typically result in official charges. The offender would spend the night in detention, and when sober would be released, resulting in up to 100 repeat offences per year, per individual. The goal was to create a situation where these repeat offenders could be brought into the justice system and offered resources. Yellowknife Detachment's four watches were asked to identify individuals who were repeatedly creating problems for the public by committing "nuisance" offences, and who were likely good candidates for rehabilitation. Nine individuals were identified. Information on these individuals was gathered and included a list of the number of times police dealt with this offender within the last year. The arresting officer(s) could then utilize the information to arrest the offender with a charge that would stand up to the court process. By charging and convicting the individual, the appropriate resources could then be brought in for assistance.

The program's success comes from bringing all the puzzle pieces together through the participation and cooperation of the many resources involved. Together with the Salvation Army, Yellowknife Health and Social Services, Corrections Services NWT, Probation Services NWT, Justice Canada, GNWT Department of Justice, Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC), mental health workers, and private sector, Yellowknife Detachment has used a coordinated approach to provide the offenders the resources they need to address the underlying issues. Each agency plays an integral role in ensuring a positive outcome for all.

The success of the initiative has also been, in large part, due to the efforts of the members of the Yellowknife Detachment, who not only embraced the strategy but took ownership of it. Under the philosophy of the Crime Reduction Strategy, a Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) was established for the Yellowknife Detachment. This unit consists of specific officers dedicated to the mandate of the Crime Reduction Strategy. In addition to

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**This issue of Mountie Messenger brought to you by:**

Northwest Territories Health and Social Services

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addressing the prolific and priority repeat offenders this unit has also focused on a second issue that was identified by the JMT. This was the general illegal drug and alcohol activity in the downtown core. The CRU has been actively working on these issues since early May and is seeing tremendous results. Due to the concentrated efforts of the CRU there has been a noticeable reduction in visible illegal alcohol and drug activity in the downtown core and fewer incidents of violence during bar closing hours. Local business owners have expressed their appreciation for the increased presence of officers during foot patrols and visits to the stores. The hard work of the members has resulted in a noticeable decrease of general complaint rates received by the Yellowknife Detachment which relate to the downtown core.

## Summer Safety Information:

### Water/Boating Safety, Travel Plans, Camping & Bear Safety.

The unique environment of the north requires some tailored and specific steps be taken to ensure your safety when heading outside to enjoy the summer weather. The RCMP has partnered with various agencies this summer to promote summer safety.

Northwest Territories Health and Social Services developed a Safe in Swim Vest campaign aimed at promoting the use of personal floatation devices. The RCMP has encouraged distribution of the posters and has established a boat patrol program this summer in which regular patrols of area lakes are being conducted. While on these patrols, RCMP members are speaking to boaters and looking for appropriate numbers and sizes of personal floatation devices (PFDs), proper emergency equipment, sufficient fuel amounts, safe travel plans for longer trips, and general dangerous practices.

It is hoped that through the distribution of safe boating guides and by providing information to the public at large that unnecessary injuries, deaths, or search and rescue situations can be avoided.

When fitting a PFD or Swim Vest, either for yourself or for a child, it is imperative that an appropriate size be used. To ensure maximum effectiveness of a PFD ensure that it fits properly, the straps or buckles are done up snugly, and that the device is an approved style for the type of activity you are engaging in. The colder water temperatures in the north must also be taken into account. When choosing a swim vest, life jacket or PFD, give serious consideration to devices that offer some thermal protection. Never leave children unattended near water whether they are wearing a floatation device or not.

In addition to the promotion of swim vests and PFDs RCMP have been encouraging persons planning outdoor trips to file a travel plan with their local detachment. In particular, in hopes of decreasing the high levels of preventable injuries and deaths of NWT residents, Sgt. Larry O'Brien of RCMP, G Division Community Policing, and Jack Kruger, RCMP, G Division Search & Rescue Coordinator, participated in the NWT Injury Prevention Working Group. Their collaboration with Lona Hegeman of Dept. Health and Social Services, GNWT, resulted in the development, production, distribution, and promotion of a SAFE TRAVEL PLAN unique to northern safety needs. RCMP detachments, health centres, visitors' centres, gas stations, and grocery stores participated in the distribution of SAFE TRAVEL PLANS, and within 8 weeks, an amazing 6,000 copies were made available to NWT residents and visitors. In 12 NWT communities, each household was provided with copies of the SAFE TRAVEL PLAN which is also available on www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca. In addition, there are travel plan forms available at RCMP detachments or through many local wilderness outfitters.

Once you've arrived at your camping or wilderness destination there are still a number of things that you should be prepared for and consider during your planning stages. Ensure that you are backcountry and bear aware and educated. The backcountry is a place to seek solitude and a true wilderness experience, away from crowds, noise, and everyday pressures.

Leave No Trace camping is the norm for wilderness travellers in the north. So remember, if you pack it in, pack it out.

Build campfires on rock, sand, earth, or gravel, or in provided fireplaces. Never leave a fire unattended, and always make sure it is out when you are finished. Remember to be careful with fire while out on the land, and respect the restrictions on open fires when they are posted.

Be prepared for the weather conditions and possible extremes in temperature. Wear wool or polypropylene rather than cotton clothing for outdoor activities. Wool is best for wet or cool weather; it retains warmth even when wet. Cotton clothing (including jeans) is less suitable because it increases loss of body heat when soaked.

As a safety measure, have each member of your group carry a whistle. Make sure everyone knows that three blasts on a whistle or three shouts are a distress call. Before getting into the water be sure to check for underwater hazards (like rocks and logs) before you allow anyone to dive or swim. Avoid water with fast currents. And never swim alone.

When encountering wildlife never approach or feed wild animals, even if they appear to be friendly. When you choose a campsite, always be on the lookout for bear signs, such as tracks and droppings. Don't camp where you see them. Bears will stick mostly to river valleys, so camp higher up on ridges. Keeping your campsite clean and caching food away from tents will help keep them away. Dispose of food scraps by burning or burying them. For many people, seeing a bear is the highlight of a wilderness experience. However, all bears are dangerous, and as long as people and bears occupy the same territory, there will be unplanned encounters with potentially disastrous results. Try not to catch a bear by surprise: when you're out walking, it's a good idea to make a lot of noise.

Safety in Bear Country, a booklet available from any office of the NWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources, contains basic precautions and safety tips to keep in mind while you are in bear country.

Article information courtesy of: www.explorenwt.com & Dept. Health and Social Services, Government of the NWT.

## Yellowknife Community Justice Committee: Alternative Measures

### What does Alternative Measures mean?

Alternative measures are a diversion from the court system. Being sent to alternative measures means that you will not have to go to court and you will not have a criminal conviction. The alternative measures program is designed to:

- lessen your involvement in the formal criminal justice system;
- hold you responsible and accountable for your criminal acts;
- protect society by deterring you from future criminal activity; and
- involve the community and especially the victim of your crime in the criminal justice process.

### Can I be a candidate for this process?

Once the police have conducted their investigation

and determined that they can proceed with a prosecution, they have three choices about how to handle the matter. They may:

- Give you a warning and take the matter no further; or
- Refer the matter to alternative measures; or
- Lay a charge and have you appear in court.

In making this decision the police look at factors such as:

- If the offence type is eligible for referral to alternative measures;
- The seriousness of the offence;
- Your previous involvement in the justice system;
- The feelings of the victim(s); and
- Your attitude about the offence.

Alternative measures will be considered for you if you accept responsibility for the offence and if, after hearing about alternative measures, you agree to take part in the process.

Alternative measures will not be used in your case if you believe that you are innocent or choose to go to court.

**Who is involved in the alternative measures process?**

The RCMP and the Crown Attorney can make referrals to the Community Justice Committee (alternative measure process). The Community Justice Committee will speak to you, the victim of your offence, and to the police to get the details relating to your offence. If the committee decides to accept your referral, a date for a future hearing will be selected.

If the Community Justice Committee decides that alternative measures are not appropriate in your case or if you decide that you don't want to participate, the information will be sent back to the RCMP or Crown Attorney for further action. Your case will then go through the regular criminal justice process.

If your referral is accepted by the Community Justice Committee a hearing will be held, in which a resolution can be created with input from all persons involved. Some of the possible outcomes of the hearing may include:

- Community Service Work;
- Restitution (money paid to victim to repair or replace property);
- Counseling (drug/alcohol/personal issues);
- Attending special information or educational sessions;
- Apology (in person or letter);
- Curfew;
- No contact with victim or other persons involved in offence; or
- Staying away from certain places.

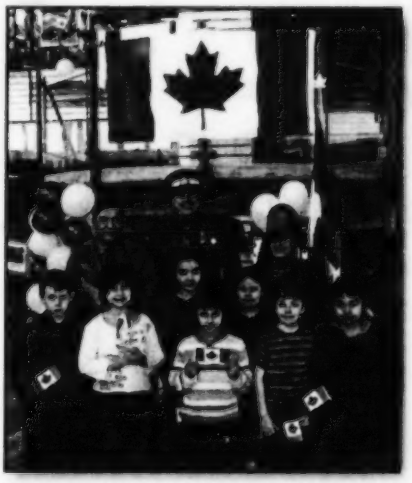
**What will happen if I don't finish or comply with the resolution agreement?**

If you do not follow the instructions of the Community Justice Committee, or if you do not comply with the resolution agreement, your case can be referred back to the RCMP or Crown Attorney who may lay a charge against you and send the matter to court.

For more information on alternative measures you can contact your local RCMP Detachment, your local Community Justice Committee, or you can call the local Restorative Justice Coordinator at (867) 920-3163.

## RCMP - Proud of Country

Local detachment personnel were honoured to take part in the National Flag of Canada Day celebrations at the Greenstone Building on February 15th, 2007. The celebrations included speeches, entertainment by a class of local students, and a flag raising ceremony.



Children from Weledeh Catholic School Dogrib Choir pose with NWT Commisioner Tony Whitford, Insp. Fortin & Cst. Williams during Flag Day Ceremonies.

National Flag of Canada Day is observed each year on February 15, the anniversary of the proclamation of our maple leaf flag by Her Majesty the Queen, in 1965. The date marks the day in 1965 when our red and white maple leaf flag was first raised over Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and indeed, hundreds of communities across Canada.

It was a perfect opportunity to share our pride in Canada, in being Canadian and to celebrate our flag and what it stands for — a country and a citizenship that are the envy of the world. In our often understated ways, be it instructing students in a school classroom, taking time to listen to the stories of veterans, or volunteering at the local community centre, Canadians share their pride in our flag and in their common values.

The events of the day were organized by the local Celebrate Canada committee. This committee consists of a group of NWT volunteers who provide funding recommendations and support com- munities in all their celebrations of Canada. In addition, they routinely host poster contests, designate Canada Youth Awards, support citizenship ceremonies, and other community oriented events.

Some article content courtesy of Canadian Heritage – Government of Canada.

## Mounties March in Canada Day Parade

As the Canada Day Parade date drew near, the Yellowknife Detachment commander and the G Division Commanding Officer sent requests to the officers under their commands to volunteer to participate. As expected there was no hesitation from a number of people.

Canada Day celebrations are important events for all Canadians, but the opportunity for RCMP members to participate is especially gratifying. It is a time for displaying pride in country and in the RCMP. The appreciation shown by the public as they clap and cheer as the troop marches past, helps to remind the police officers that their day to day presence and efforts to ensure the safety and security of Canadian citizens is appreciated.

The parade troop this year included two Constables who had been posted to Yellowknife after recently graduating from the RCMP training academy. When asked what it meant to wear his red serge and march as part of the troop in the Canada Day parade, Cst. Warren Hudym said, "I was very proud to represent the force on such an important day for Canadians." Cst. Hudym graduated from Depot in March of this year.

Yellowknife citizens watch as a column of RCMP members in trademark scarlet tunics marched through the streets of Yellowknife during the Canada Day Parade. - photo courtesy of Cst. Joel Turcotte

## Youth Focus: Bullying

What comes to mind when you hear the word "bully?" A big kid with a mean-looking face? What about the word "bullying?" A group of older kids surrounding, pointing and laughing at a younger kid in the playground? If you thought of those situations, you would be right, but there is much more to bullying than that.

Bullying doesn't have to be physical; it can also be verbal or social, such as making nasty comments, intimidating, or excluding someone. Both bullies and their victims can be of either gender and any race or ethnicity. As horrible as bullying can be right now for both the victim and the bully, it can have serious consequences in the long run.

First off, what is bullying? It is a question of power. The bully uses aggressive and harmful behaviour repeatedly against someone less powerful, to maintain or create their own sense of power. The bully may appear more powerful, because he or she is bigger, stronger, older, or more popular. The bully can be one person or a group of people. The aggressive behaviour can be physical, like hitting, slapping, and stealing. It can also be verbal, like name-calling, threatening, teasing, or calling someone racist or sexist names. Bullying can also be social, like ignoring, gossiping, and spreading rumours. Bullying can even be done over the internet or by cell phone (cyber bullying), and includes sexual harassment, when someone says something about a person's sexuality or touches someone who doesn't want to be touched.

Bullying can happen directly to the victim or indirectly behind the victim's back. It can result in physical injury, the victim feeling badly about him or her, and/or feeling alone as a result of not being included in group activities. Despite what some adults may say, bullying is NOT a normal part of being a youth. Bullying doesn't often stop on its own. Instead, it can get worse with time.

Bullying can progress to the point where it is a criminal offense that is punishable by law. Back in November of 2005, a particular bullying incident caught the headlines. After being harassed and sexually assaulted by a handful of fellow students for more than a year, the 15-year-old female victim told a teacher at the school where this was taking place after a particularly horrifying incident. The teacher then called the police who charged a total of 16 students, 14 boys and two girls, with charges such as assault, criminal harassment, forcible confinement, and sexual assault.

Bullying has many effects. The bully may have trouble with school, the law, and building and maintaining relationships. The victim of bullying can become depressed, have a hard time trusting people, blame him or herself for the situation, and develop a fear of school. Many of these effects stay with the victims throughout their lives or manifest themselves into other issues as they go through life.

Bullying can even affect people not directly associated with the act: the bystanders. It is estimated that about 85% of bullying episodes are seen by others. Having other people watching can make the victim feel worse. These bystanders may also feel anxiety or shame for not helping, and develop a fear of taking sides, and of certain areas of the school where most of the bullying takes place.

Why do people bully? There is no one reason why people become bullies. Some bullies do it for attention, some to make themselves feel important. Other bullies are copying the behaviour that they see at home, such as angry yelling and pushing. Another possible reason why people bully is that they are insecure about themselves, and think that by dominating others, they will feel more powerful. This insecurity could be the result of this bully once being the victim of bullying. A bully raises his/her esteem by diminishing someone else's.

With all this being said, what can you do about bullying? If you are a bystander to it, you can step in to stop the bullying. One study states that if another child intervenes in a bullying situation, more than half the time the bullying will stop within 10 seconds. Remember that standing aside and watching bullying can be interpreted as approving or condoning the act. If you see someone else being bullied and you don't want to step in, it is very important that you tell an adult about it. The adult can be a teacher, parent, or someone else that you trust. You have to remember that the best way to stop bullying for good is to tell adults about it. Chances are they either don't know that it is happening, or they just don't have enough information to do anything about it. If the adult you tell does nothing, then tell another adult. Talk about the bullying with everyone! Someone will take it seriously, because you're taking it seriously. It is also important to remember that by reporting a bullying incident, you are not being a tattle-tale. By simply informing an adult about what is happening, you are helping the victim (perhaps yourself), your school, and even society.

If you are being bullied, talk to an adult, like a parent, teacher, or counselor. Be honest about the bullying with your friends, so they can lend support. Act confident. Don't seem defeated and maintain eye contact as much as possible. Understand the difference between being assertive and aggressive. Remember: you are not alone and you don't deserve to be bullied.

Bullies have the obligation to change their behaviour too. Talking to a parent, teacher, or counselor can help you stop bullying. If in a group, resist peer pressure to bully. Even if you haven't been punished, take responsibility for what you've done. If you can't apologize directly to your victim, send a note, even an anonymous one.

Source: deal.org / Researcher: Amy Dunn

## Personnel Profile:
### Cst. Dreilich brings you the Mountie Messenger

Constable Roxanne Dreilich joined the RCMP in December, 2002, and was posted to Turtle Mountain Detachment in Manitoba. The Turtle Mountain Detachment consisted of an amalgamation of three detachments located in Killarney, Boissevain, and Deloraine, Manitoba. Cst. Dreilich spent three years working at the Killarney and Boissevain detachments before transferring to Yellowknife Detachment in January, 2006. Upon arrival in Yellowknife she worked in general duty for several months before

being assigned to the Community Policing Unit in September, 2006.

Since that time you've probably seen many photos of Cst. Dreilich in the newspaper or seen or heard her speak on newscasts. That's because a portion of her duties in the Community Policing Unit is as the Yellowknife Detachment Media / Communications Liaison. Some of the other responsibilities of the Community Policing Unit are to represent the RCMP at community functions, host groups for detachment tours, and give public and school presentations. Cst. Dreilich is also responsible for the creation of the Mountie Messenger, the first edition of which was distributed this past April.

Cst. Roxanne Dreilich puts the finishing touches on the 2nd edition of the Mountie Messenger.

Before joining the RCMP Cst. Dreilich worked in the fields of public relations, sales & marketing, human resources, and administration. In addition, she volunteered as an emergency medical responder for an ambulance service in her home community. She also spent five years as a volunteer RCMP Auxiliary Constable.

Cst. Dreilich was born in northern Manitoba, grew up in Ontario, and returned to live in Manitoba as a teenager. She spent many years living in the Russell/ Binscarth area of western Manitoba. Cst. Dreilich joined the RCMP as a regular member in 2002. She and her common-law spouse, also an RCMP Constable, enjoy living in Yellowknife and are looking forward to the rest of their time here.

## Cold Case:

### School fire remains unsolved.

At approximately 7:40pm on August 3rd, 2006, the Yellowknife RCMP responded to a call for assistance at École St. Joseph School on Range Lake Road. The Yellowknife Fire Department had reported that an area at the rear of some of the school buildings was on fire. At the time of the call it was believed that the fire had been deliberately set.

The blaze continued to spread underneath the school's portable classrooms and ultimately engulfed the entire portable complex. The Yellowknife Fire Department battled the flames for several hours while RCMP contained the area and began an investigation into the cause of the fire. The flames were eventually doused and the Fire Marshal began the exhaustive task of sifting through the rubble. After an intense investigation he was able to conclusively determine that the fire was indeed a case of arson.

A nighttime photo shows the building fully engulfed in flames.

Rubble was all that remained of the École St. Joseph School portable classrooms following an August 3rd, 2006, blaze.

RCMP continued their investigation with the help of numerous tips and reports from witnesses. As a result, a number of individuals were identified as possible persons of interest in this case. Despite obtaining a multitude of statements and several suspect interviews being conducted, the person(s) responsible have yet to be determined. The investigation is ongoing and remains a priority with the Yellowknife Detachment General Investigation Section.

Anyone having information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Yellowknife RCMP at 867-669-5200 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

## Join the RCMP:

### Make a difference. Start today.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police offers a challenging and exciting career to those interested in making a difference in their communities and their country. We are looking for people from all backgrounds to join Canada's national police service.

In fact, there has never been a better time to apply! Due to retirements and increasing demands for police officers across the country, the RCMP plans to train up to 2,000 cadets each year for the next few years.

**Career opportunities include:**

- General Duty
- Marine Policing
- Traffic Services
- Economic Crime
- Customs & Excise
- Foreign Missions
- Border Integrity
- Forensics
- Aboriginal Policing
- Drug Investigation
- Police Dog Service
- Explosive Disposal

**Basic Application Requirements:**

- Be a Canadian citizen
- Be of good character
- Be proficient in either official language (English or French)
- Have a Canadian high school diploma or equivalent
- Have a valid Canadian driver's licence
- Be at least 19 years of age at engagement
- Meet physical / medical requirements
- Be willing to relocate anywhere in Canada

**The Recruiting Process Involves:**

- Attending a Career Presentation
- Written Exam – RCMP Police Aptitude Battery (RPAB)
- Physical Test – Physical Ability Requirement Evaluation (PARE)
- Interviews – Suitability Interview
- Good Character Verification – Background check & Pre-employment polygraph
- Medical/Dental/Psychological
- Enrollment as a Cadet - 24 week training at the RCMP Training Academy.

There are numerous job possibilities for those who wish to become police officers. We also offer job security and an attractive pay and benefits package.

**Police officer salary:**

At engagement: $44,513
After 6 months: $57,835
12 months: $62,751
24 months: $67,667
3 years: $72,125

Current Presentation Schedule:
Aug. 14, Aug. 28 (French), Sept. 18 or Oct. 24 at 6:00 pm at the RCMP Yellowknife Detachment - 5010 Veterans Memorial Dr. (49th Ave.)

**Written Exam Schedule**

**Aug. 18 at 9:00am**
**Aug. 30 at 4:00pm**
**Sept. 22 at 1:00pm**
**Oct. 27 at 1:00pm**

**Call for additional dates - (867) 669-5115 and bring photo ID to exam**

For more information, visit our website at www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca or call NWT Recruiting (G Division) at (867) 669-5115

## Community Involvement:

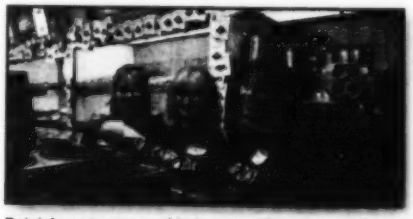
### RCMP partake in numerous community events

RCMP members generally live in the communities in which they work. And although their work sometimes brings them into contact with some negative elements of society, they are often rewarded for their efforts by the opportunity to touch base with the community at large during community or charity events. Members of the Yellowknife RCMP Detachment, in partnership with G Division headquarters staff, have had several opportunities over the past few months to attend such functions. Here's a photo array showing our personnel in action at just some of these events.

The "Three Strikes & U Go To Jail" bowling team poses at the Kid Help Phone Bowlathon on April 21st.

The "Gendarmerie Royale du Gumboot" team participating in the "skinny ankles" contest at the Gumboot Rally on May 12th.

Youth visit the detachment during Police Week Open House on May 19th.



Detatchment personnel help out at Tim Horton's Camp Day on June 6th.

Members of the RCMP team run the track during the June 15th Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The G Division and Yellowknife Detachment Slopitch teams met head to head in the play-off game of the Public Service Week Slopitch Tournament held on June 15th. The actual score will not be revealed but it was a clear victory for the detachment team. The game was enjoyed by all and we look forward to next year!

## On the Move!

### Transfers & Promotions

**Arrivals....**

Spring didn't just bring melting snow and warmer temperatures to Yellowknife, it also heralded the arrival of three new recruits to Yellowknife Detachment. All graduates from the RCMP Training Academy in Regina, the three are excited to begin their policing careers in Yellowknife. Cst. Warren Hudym arrived in March, followed by Cst. Robert Kempf in April, and Cst. Brett Foley followed up May. S/Sgt. Mike Brandford transferred from a G Division HQ position to take over as YK Detachment Commander. Cst. Leif Svendsen transferred to Yellowknife from his previous posting in Inuvik and Cst. Andrew Traynor transferred in from Drayton Valley, Alberta. Both arrived in mid-summer. The detachment has also welcomed Aux. Cst. Kyra Powder to the team.

**Departures....**

Inspector Roch Fortin left Yellowknife Detachment in April to take on the position of G Division - Area Commander South. In July, Cst. Jeff Burkell transferred from the YK Detachment GIS section to a position with the Emergency Response Team in Ottawa, ON. Cst. Mike Redmond departs the 7th of August for his new posting in Fort Providence. Cst. Mark Israel will also be heading to a new post at the end of the month. He will be transferring to Fort Liard Detachment.

**In House Transfers....**

In April, Cst. Kelly Willis left the detachment to take a position with G Division recruiting. Cpl. Violet Pokiak recently joined our detachment supervisor's team after transferring in from her position in G Division recruiting. Cst. Trevor Shea will soon be leaving the Yellowknife Detachment to commence training with the G Division Forensic Identification Section.

**Climbing the ladder....Promotions!**

Two of Yellowknife Detachment's Watch Supervisors, Cpl. Simon McDermott and Cpl. Jane McDermott, have set a few milestones during their RCMP careers. The two met while training in the same troop in Regina. Their troop camaraderie developed into friendship and ultimately a relationship. They graduated together as Constables, and despite being posted to detachments in different regions of British Columbia, they continued their relationship over the next several years. Jane and Simon were both eventually transferred to detachments closer together in British Columbia, and later to Yellowknife Detachment. In January 2007, the two reached another milestone together as they were both promoted to the rank of Corporal and officially assigned as supervisors for two of the four detachment watches. To the knowledge of our division personnel, this is the first time in RCMP history that a couple has met in training, graduated together, worked together, and been promoted together. Congratulations to them both!

**We would like to hear from you. If you have questions, comments, concerns, word of encouragement, or topic suggestions for future Mountie Messenger editions, please send an email to: messenger@rcmp-grc.gc.ca**